

# THE STAR'S WORK COMPUTING & HIGH TECH NOT

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### The Macintosh Quadra:

## A Mac more like the PC?

By Zeld Nasser  
Star Staff Writer

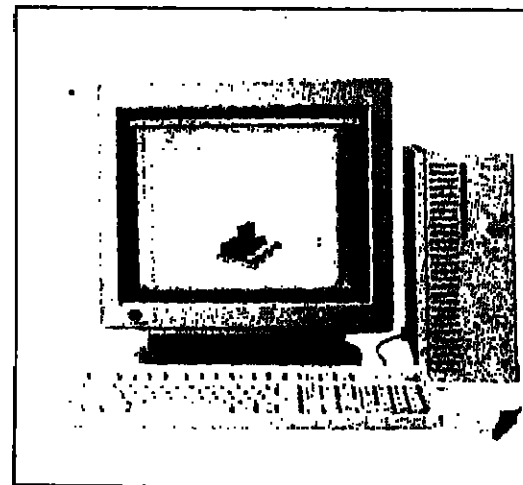
APPLE'S LATEST additions to the Macintosh range were the smallest Mac yet, the PowerBook, and the biggest Mac yet, the Quadra. What strikes you on first sight of the Quadra is the large monitor, the tower structure and the big keyboard. If you didn't know better, you'd think it was a PC. Both models of the Quadra, the model 700 and the model 900, give you this impression. So how much is the Quadra like the PC? Does it successfully incorporate some of the features of the PC which can make the Mac more convincing for PC fanatics, and how well do these features work with the Mac's user-friendly environment?

#### Performance:

The Quadra runs a Motorola 68040 microprocessor supported by improved sub-systems, enabling it to run up to two times faster than the Mac IIx which ran at a speed of 40 MHz. It comes with 4MB RAM as standard expandable to 20MB on the model 700 and 64MB RAM on the model 900. Both models use a 13" Hi-Res color monitor and incorporate a math co-processor, a memory controller and cache memory in one integrated chip.

The machine presents the user with a much more open architecture than that previously available on the Mac, with two slots at the back of the 700 and six at the back of the 900. Apple explain this by pointing out that extra slots are usually used by computer manufacturers to make up for the features not originally included in the machine. Since Apple claim to include all the necessary features needed to get you working immediately, it seems logical to say that "a two-slot Mac is better than a six-slot something else."

So how does the machine perform with existing Macintosh software? For one thing, it can handle larger amounts of information much more efficiently and with much more speed. All the user-friendliness and ease of use of the Mac combined with a much faster computer capable of storing much bigger amounts of



#### Power worth the price?

data make the Quadra's performance superior in all the fields which the Mac has penetrated successfully, especially publishing and graphic design. Business also benefits greatly from the machine's capabilities, especially since it has built in Ethernet capabilities and can run client/user multiuser databases and other complex applications with much more ease. The graphics packages on the Quadra are amazing. The quality is excellent and the speed with which the graphics are handled is unrivaled. Sound is also impressive.

need. The office look the Quadra gives you can be matched by a PC which costs one third of the price. This can sometimes really influence buyers. The power, however, is a different story. The power offered by the Quadra is magnificent, especially when combined with the Mac's features. What's more, the new features included in the machine cut down on costs for a typical Mac user who may like to upgrade his/her Mac. In Jordan, the Quadra starts at JD 7294 and is available at Ideal Systems. If you are a Macintosh user seriously thinking of upgrading, I strongly suggest you see it.

## COMPU SCENE

THE BIG news is that IBM lost \$2.6 billion in 1991 after making a profit of \$6 billion in 1990. John Akers, IBM's chief executive, explained to the press, "IBM took aggressive actions in 1991 to make it more competitive and efficient." The large scale process of re-organization IBM had undergone last year was partly to blame for the losses, but the real reasons were world-wide economic weakness and the increased pressures of competition in the national and international market.

Hewlett Packard have released their latest printer, the "DeskWriter C" (300 dots per inch) which is the first inkjet color printer for the Macintosh, and their latest scanner, "Scan Jet 2 C" also capable of scanning col-

ors (400 dots per inch). According to HP, their market research has lead them to believe that Macintosh users have more of an inclination to incorporate colors in their work than MS-DOS users. The release of these printers is part of HP's policy to provide the Mac market with what it lacks.

Speaking of the Macintosh, it seems like thieves prefer stealing 'Macs to any other computer brand. According to the British Police, computer theft has gone up by 16% this year with the Macintosh accounting for 12% of the total number of robberies. At the end of last year, the TSB bank reported thefts of £25,000 worth of Macintosh hardware!

## To tax or not to tax

AN ARGUMENT raised in a newspaper article recently compelled me to present my point of view. The article was about the advantages the government would gain from lifting the exemption from customs which computers enjoy. According to the article, this would increase government revenues and thus would help our economic development. The writer goes on to explain how the exemption of computers from customs has encouraged many government officials to unwisely invest in computers which eventually end up sitting on a desk in the wrong place without being put to any good use. The resources used to incorporate these computers could have been invested in something better like agriculture, industry or services all of which could do with more financial support. Not to mention the loss of jobs resulting from computerization.

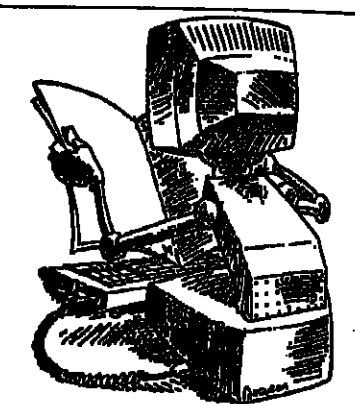
It is true that the incorporation of computers in industry has caused job losses for many, but it is very clear that computers themselves have created an industry which also offers jobs. After all, the company responsible for computerizing a factory must include a certain number of employees who wouldn't have a job if it weren't for the emergence of the computer industry. The bottom line is that computers also create jobs. Maybe these jobs only allow certain people with a degree of creativity and technical knowledge to utilize these chances, but the fact remains that the computer sector in Jordan is big enough to be respected and given the attention it deserves.

A simple investigation will prove that the number of companies working in the Jordanian computer sector are big enough to create a market which plays its role in the economic development of the country. Imposing customs on computers will most definitely decrease the role of these companies and might even make them go out of business. How is that going to help our development?

Most importantly, from an economic point of view, it is rather clear to any researcher that the modern world is one dependent on industry and trade. Economists have found that the only way for third world countries to catch up with the industrialization of the West is technology. We should possess the technology they possess to achieve what they have achieved. In fact, I remember a speech by a public official last year in which he emphasized the importance of encouraging technological advancements in Jordan. Now surely computers are a very important tool of advanced technology?

I agree completely with people who hold the opinion that we have irresponsibly incorporated computers into our governmental institutions because of the relatively lower cost resulting from lenient customs treatment. But this is no reason to destroy the computer market. This should be an indication of our bad planning when it comes to automation as a result of inexperience. There are some good examples of responsible automation efforts in governmental institutions and computers have proven that they can serve the public efficiently. Careful study and research of an organizations' needs can eliminate such mistakes. It would be ridiculous to disregard the improved services offered through computers just because of the mistakes of an isolated few.

To close the case, I would like to draw the attention of those against my argument to the fact that customs are usually imposed on an imported product to provide protection for similar locally produced products. Do we produce computers locally? Well, we're starting to assemble computers locally and there is definitely promise there to build the base for computer manufacture in Jordan. Imposing customs would kill the beginnings of such an industry, wouldn't it? I'll leave it to you to decide.



# Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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## Reforming Jordanian jails

A study shows that Jordanian prisons meet basic standards, but legal reforms are needed  
Page 2



## JORDAN

W E E K

A non-conventional look at

Jordanian affairs:

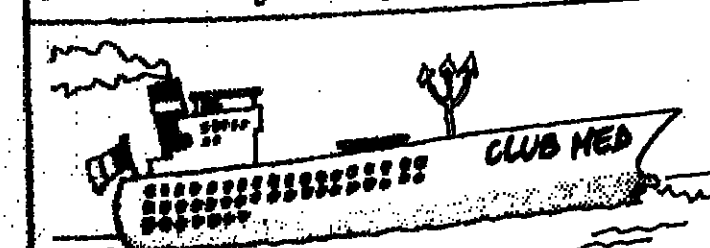
- \* Putting meat on the table
- \* Viva Italia
- \* More committees
- \* The press makes a warning
- \* Expats in trouble
- \* Defining poverty

China's ambassador defends his country's decision to establish relations with Israel

page 3

## Le Jourdain

Section française du Star



Club Med veut débarquer à Aqaba  
page 10



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The Star

# JORDANIAN WEEK

## Boycott the meat

The Federation of Jordanian Women (FJW) is leading a campaign to protect consumers against the rising cost of living. Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazala, president of FJW, has called on merchants to put an end to their greed which is causing prices to double. The FJW has called on housewives to boycott meat which has become very expensive lately. Poor families have no option but to boycott the meat. The FJW call is really directed towards well-to-do families, who may not like the idea of not putting meat on their tables.

## Viva Italia

The Italians are coming! Over 1,000 Italians will attend the annual conference of the Italian Travel and Tourism Agents, which will be held in Amman on 1 April (7). Jordanian tour operators, hotels and Royal Jordanian (RJ) have taken measures to make their stay in Jordan both successful and enjoyable in the hope that the Italian agents will include Jordan in their brochures

and travel options. For the record, Italian tourists were first in terms of the number of tourists visiting Jordan before the Gulf crisis.

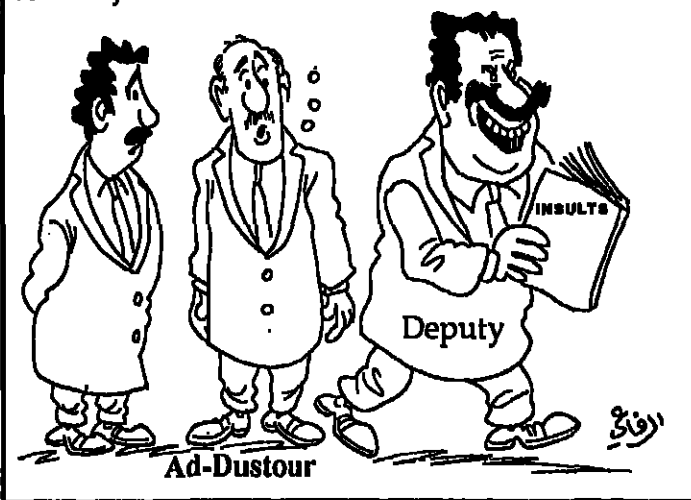
## Power of the press

Al Rai newspaper criticized, in its main editorial last Thursday, the decision by the Lower House of Parliament not to lift immunity from deputy Yacoub Qarrash, who is accused of endorsing a check without sufficient funds. The newspaper reminded the House that the press will exercise its responsibility as the Fourth Estate whose duty is to monitor legislative and executive powers. The paper said the decision to prevent putting deputy Qarrash, an independent Islamist, on trial is a dangerous precedent and has prevented justice from taking its course. The paper called on the deputy to ask the House to lift his immunity in order to prove his innocence.

## Farmers' plight

Jordan Valley farmers have been hard hit by the sub-zero temperatures which have affect-

He's educating himself for the next round of debates



ed Jordan during the last few weeks. The ice has destroyed squash and eggplant crops in thousands of dunums in Deir Alla and north Shuna. Farmers who survived the ice were hit by the 75 km/hour polar winds which swept Jordan earlier this week. Hundreds of plastic houses were destroyed and their contents damaged. Farmers are thinking of setting up a compensation fund to act as an insurance for such natural catastrophes.

## AIDS kills child

A 10-year-old Irbid boy died last week in Princess Basma Hospital of AIDS, Sawt Al Sha'b newspaper reported. The newspaper did not say how the boy

was infected with the disease, but it said the Ministry of Health estimates of 60 AIDS patients in Jordan were not accurate. Hospital sources denied the newspaper report the next day.

## Another committee

Jordan's unemployed will be happy to know that the Lower House of Parliament is considering a motion to set up a temporary Committee For Unemployment Issues. It is temporary, we assume, because the committee will have no work to do after it puts an end to unemployment in Jordan. One unemployed Jordanian journalist called from the United States, where he resides until he finds a job in Jordan (7) to say that he was elated at the news and that it was high time that the Lower House begin to discuss unemployment. "This is why we voted them in, in the first place you know," he told The Star. The House asked deputies who made the proposal to put forward a paper explaining the purpose behind the committee before the House can decide on the matter. Jordan's unem-

played will have to wait a bit until the issue is resolved.

## Only 25%

The General Secretary of Social Development Minister Dr. Mohammad Sgar, reported to have told a British diplomat in Amman that the rate of poverty in Jordan has reached 25 per cent of the total population, or about 800,000 people. Dr. Sgar added that Jordan does not have abject poverty or starvation. This is not what year's UNICEF and UNRW reports on Jordan concluded.

## Where is the director?

Ad-Dustour daily newspaper reported that since 21 November of last year, the Social Security Corp. (SSC) which manages over JD 500 million of investments, is still without a general director. The paper urged the government to fill the vacancy soon and not to deal with the issue from the political point of view.

## Expats in trouble

Only 3000 out of 16,500 belonging to Jordanian expats have been processed by Customs Dept. so far, Al Rai newspaper reported. It said majority of remaining cars owners will not meet the government's deadline of 29 February to pay customs or face confiscation. It said most expats prospects that could include the majority of them. It also complained that they have not received their savings and pensions from Kuwait. If the government will then accept to process cars whose manufacturing does not exceed five years. Normally, the expatriates are amused.

## Study calls on government to reform jail law

AMMAN (Star) — A study on inmates in Jordanian jails or detention has called on the government to replace the 1953 Jail Law with a new one that takes into consideration international agreements on jails and UN standards on the treatment of prisoners.

The study, prepared by Dr. Suleiman Sweiss and presented to the Arab-African Seminar on Penitentiary and Penitentiary Reforms in Tunis in December, also called for the setting up of production units in Jordanian jails and rehabilitation centers, as jails are now called in the Kingdom.

It also called for the amendment of penal codes and for limiting the period of protective custody to more than one day. The study recommended that judicial and public parties be allowed to inspect Jordanian jails and to allow representatives of the ministries of health, social development, justice and interior to visit jails at least two times a year.

The study revealed that there are ten jails in Jordan, run by the Reform and Rehabilitation Center Administration of the Public Security Dept. (PSD). Including Swagga which is about 10 kilometers south of Amman and is the central prison in Jordan with an inmate capacity of 2500 prisoners. Other jails include Jweideh (600 prisoners), Qafqafa, Maan and Sal.

The study commended the positive points in the proposed law of 1991 which has adopted the reform and rehabilitation concepts as a substitute to the punishment concept in the old law. The study also concluded that the two most modern requirements of the minimum living and care conditions including a general physician, a psychologist and a social worker. Mentally ill prisoners are described as "decent in general" while prisoners are categorized

Continued on page 3

## China still committed to Palestinian rights, says envoy

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to the Star

THE ARABS have the most to gain from China's recent establishment of ties with Israel, says China's ambassador to Jordan. Through its relations with Israel, China can point out to the United Nations the benefits of a peaceful settlement in the Occupied Territories. It is to Israel's advantage to reach peace, for they can see that happened to them in World War Two and should take every opportunity to avoid a repeat of history.

China sees the Middle East conflict as having three key issues. One, he said, is the Occupation of Territories, where China's policy continues to be one of support of implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the complete Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories. The second issue is that Palestinian legitimate rights and self-determination must be honored and guaranteed. Simultaneously, the third issue is that the security of the Palestinian people, said the ambassador. He added that "China favors a peaceful settlement to achieve a comprehensive, just, and durable peace to create a peaceful coexistence between the Arabs and Jews."

Regarding some Arab criticism of China's diplomatic move towards Israel, Deliang noted that China is acting positively in the interest of both sides, saying that Security Council resolutions will be carried out and the Arabs and Jews can live in peaceful coexistence. He does not believe that relations with Israel will be translated negatively by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). "Our recent move will be helpful to the PLO. The PLO wants direct negotiations with Israel and so does China. We feel that we can help the positive negotiations between Israel and the PLO through our relations with Israel," he said.

China participated for the first time in the multilateral peace talks in Moscow last week. Chinese officials stressed the need for the multilateral to be followed by the questions of land and security. The Chinese message at the Moscow talks was that regional issues cannot have a solution if territorial and political problems are not settled, he said. Afterwards, participating in different forums, Deliang said that China will be proceeding ahead with bilateral talks, in particular and the peace process in general.

China, which prefers to stay out of the United Nations out of fear of negotiations, China believes that there should be an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to discuss the world body should play a key role in the peace

talks. Since the Security Council resolutions are the basis for a peaceful settlement, then the United Nations should naturally have a leading role to play, said Deliang.

The recent Security Council summit meeting is viewed by the Chinese as a significant development since the establishment of the United Nations, Deliang said. "We were always in favor of establishing a just economic and political order of the world on the basis of the equality of all nations of the world," Deliang said.

In regards to China's position on the UN-imposed sanctions on Iraq, the ambassador said that China saw Iraq as a country that invaded another. China's present policy with Iraq, he said, is of quiet diplomacy. It is trying to convince other countries to lift sanctions so that Iraqi civilians

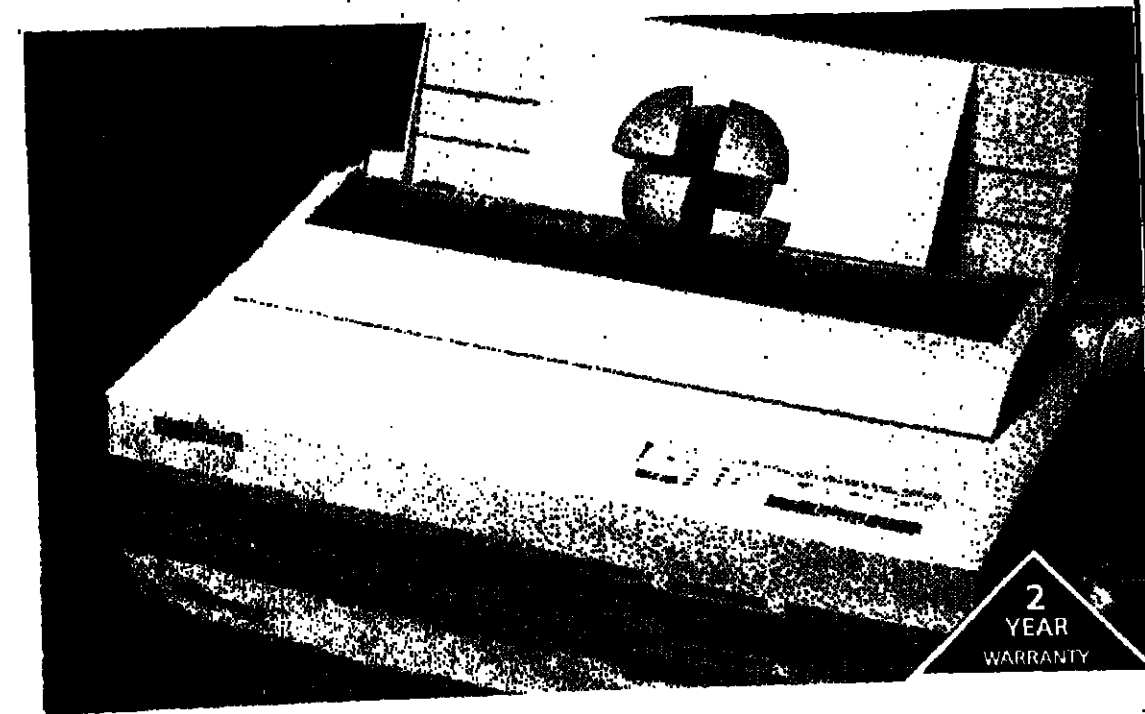
will not continue to suffer from lack of medicine and food. According to Deliang, China is trying, through the United Nations, to ensure that the daily necessities of the Iraqis are met. He added that oil exports should resume as soon as possible so that revenues can be used to buy goods for the Iraqi people. He noted that China tried to persuade Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait to create conditions for a peaceful settlement. "Unfortunately this did not work," he said.

China's fundamental policy is one of opposing terrorism and armed oppression of people. It believes in political settlements through diplomatic channels. China, said the ambassador, has adopted this policy in all issues, whether they are regional or international. ■



His Majesty King Hussein left the Al Hussein Medical City on Sunday, four days after his right leg was operated on successfully. In a statement to Radio Jordan, King Hussein expressed his appreciation for the warm feeling shown by the Jordanian people. During his stay in hospital, the King was visited by dignitaries and common people alike. Others sent flowers and messages of love and good wishes. Also during his stay, King Hussein visited two Lower House deputies who were receiving treatment at the Medical City.

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By Lina Arafat  
Special to The Star

## Arab coordination failed in Moscow, Dr Erikat

THE MOSCOW multilateral talks have signaled lack of Arab coordination, according to Dr Sa'eb Erikat, member of the Palestinian delegation to both Moscow and Washington talks.

Palestinians and Jordanians have been seeking an Arab summit to coordinate Arab strategy at the peace talks, he said. "Unfortunately, more obstacles came about as a result of the lack of agreement among Arabs during the last Arab foreign ministers meeting in Morocco," the Palestinian professor said.

The Palestinian delegation refused to participate in the Moscow talks because the United States and Russia refused to accredit all members of the delegation. At Israel's insistence only three of the eight Palestinians

representatives to Moscow were accredited by the organizers. They were Dr Erikat, Zakaria Aga, and Ghassan Khatib. Those who were rejected came from East Jerusalem and the diaspora.

"The issues that were discussed in Moscow had to do with determining the final status of the entire region. Because of that we could accept the Madrid formula regarding the Palestinian representation to be implemented again in Moscow. There are Palestinians all over the world and they need to be represented too," Dr Erikat said.

The Palestinians considered this an attempt by Israel to im-

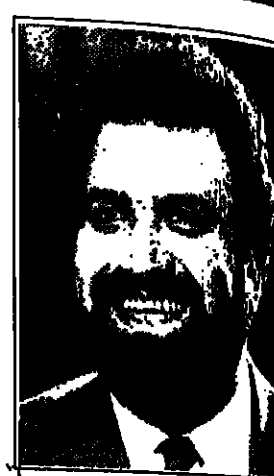
pose its will on the international community and to place more obstacles in the path of peace. "The world is now aware that the Madrid formula (on Palestinian representation) will not be accepted and that Palestinians will not be divided. Now we are on our way to finalizing an agreement on that issue," Dr Erikat said.

The outspoken Palestinian pointed out that while there was lack of progress on the bilateral talks, the Moscow talks came to determine the stands of each state, but the multilaterals cannot be considered as an alternative to the bilaterals. "For the

multilaterals to succeed, there must be progress in the bilaterals first. Otherwise, Israeli aggression will continue to be rewarded by the international community," Dr Erikat said. "We went to Moscow to prevent such rewards from being given to Israel. Without Arab cooperation we can not face the new world order. If the Arabs remain divided, it could spell disaster."

He also emphasized the urgent need to create a new formula for Arab coordination were interests of each state would be protected and served.

With the third round of Washington talks coming up this



Dr Erikat

month, Dr Erikat condemned Israel's attitude "which avoids presenting anything in writing but depends on propaganda and lies." The Palestinians have presented an out line model for the interim transitional period, and a regional peace plan, while Israel offered nothing, Dr Erikat said. He added that without a freeze on settlements the negotiations are baseless. Israel continues to interpret UN resolutions other than what it is internationally accepted, adding more difficulties day after day, he said.

The United States would intervene to define the bases for negotiations, but it will stick to a policy that could not offer solutions or impose them. "I do not think Israel will come with anything substantive (in the coming round), they are not serious. Now that they have the elections they will try to fool the public that Likud is the only party capable of making peace. However, we cannot have any substantive results before the Israeli elections," Dr Erikat concluded.

### Jails

Continued from page 2

in accordance with the types of crimes they committed. The study mentioned that these prisons have modern kitchens, libraries, supermarkets and laundries.

The study called on emphasizing the role of social workers in communicating with convicts, especially female prisoners. It noted that although Jordan's human rights record has improved noticeably during the last few years, some prisoners, especially those accused of criminal charges, complained of being subjected to beatings, insults and harsh treatment at some police stations.

Some prisoners have also complained that when moved to modern prisons they lost some privileges like preparing their own food, forming election committees to liaise with prison wardens and access to so-called opposition papers.

Dr Sweiss called in his study for the government to emphasize the rehabilitation aspect of Jordanian prisons, encouraging most convicts to train in a productive profession. The study called for a review of the scope of administrative detentions, which are not limited to security cases but include customs, supply, drug and corruption cases. It accused administrative detention for being used throughout the country, abusing their authority, which is given to them by the prime minister, to put citizens in administrative detention for periods of time and for unjustified reasons.

By Fahd A. Salameh

1957, Gustave Flaubert published his first novel *Madame Bovary*, a masterpiece which, despite its author's world-fame, also prompted a wave of bitter criticism and disapproval by those who saw in it a vulgarizing of literature and a rejection of the serious and the profound. The novel was brought against Flaubert, and for a time it was banned in France.

Similarly in 1957, the well-known Soviet writer Boris Pasternak published his classic *Doctor Zhivago* in Italy, as he was unable to publish it at home.

Such censure has also been applied to a recent work by Jordanian writer Suheir Eitel. It is a collection of short stories, *The Handbag*, which has been critically reviewed by some, while a high praise has been produced to the author and her work.

In 1952 in the city of Beirut, Suheir Eitel was born. She is a family with known literary background, and provided with the appropriate climate for her literary development. When she was only ten years old, she was a story at school that so amazed her teacher that she in turn showed it to her husband, who worked as an inspector at the Ministry of Education. He read the birth of a literary talent.

She completed her schooling in a school, then went to Beirut to study accounting at the Arab University. During her coming up, they will try to fool the public that Likud is the only party capable of making peace. However, we cannot have any substantive results before the Israeli elections," Dr Erikat concluded.

Her work, however, did not prevent her from following her education; she obtained a diploma in philosophy and a master's degree in political philosophy from The University of Jordan.

She is a member of the Jordanian Writers' Association, the Women's University Students Club and the Jordanian Women's Union, amongst other feminist organizations.

Her first published work was in 1970 in the Jordanian newspaper *Al-Akhar*, and her first collection of short stories appeared in 1980. In 1985 in Beirut, she published a socio-economic study titled "Introduction to the Women's Question in Jordan." Her controversial collection *The Handbag* appeared in 1988.

*The Handbag* is a collection of 10 short stories and was published by the National Foundation for the Development of the Human Resource. The stories generally revolve around human emotions and physical breakdowns of man when he is exposed to pain and degradation.

She concentrates on human emotions, despite the heroic images created by lovers who foster love and live by them. "Some Olive Leaves Fall" is a story which describes the life of a woman who is a prisoner of war, and her husband is a prisoner of war. It brings to mind the image of Kurtz in *Heart of Darkness*, living under the illusion that his husband went to the dark continent. The story shows the impact of war on the human mind.

Such is the style: Simple, concise and with immediacy of meaning. Suheir Eitel's characters are "You" and "I," they are all anonymous with no proper names, yet are human beings everywhere. They are nobody in particular, and yet they are everybody; they live in no specific place, and yet they are residents of everywhere.

The title story *The Handbag* is of an abstract nature. It is a philosophical inquiry into human existence and a profound re-reading of the biological development of the human being from the womb to the tomb.

## Focus on Jordanian literature (2) Suheir Eitel: Fuelling the fires of controversy



Suheir Eitel

on that spot of our homeland; ninety months were unable to scratch his diamond metal; and the land gave fruit, the place turned into an olive forest where one could find shade from the terrible heat of the sun."

The wife goes on reading to her disillusioned friend from her diaries, trying to depict the image of an unconquerable faith and loyalty to his principles. Like Marlow in *Heart of Darkness*, the lady finds it difficult to reveal to the wife that her husband, like many others, has turned into "crushed dry leaves under the steady footsteps."

The gloomy collapse of family life is depicted in "The Handbag", a life built on crumbled dreams and unrealized expectations. Suheir Eitel delves deep into the origins of such a relationship and discovers its basis is a lack of mutual understanding.

"She was a tropical flower, thirsty for living, and he was a life-flowing spring. In this sense, they both were an image of rare intuition."

But monotonous daily routine and boring daily existence murdered their love. And so, both attend the ceremonies of the burial of love and part company.

In a third story "The Dentist", Suheir Eitel diagnoses a very serious social phenomenon, that is, the spread of corruption. As is the case with teeth, corruption spreads slowly and unnoticeably; while in both cases, the quest for a reformer, or a dentist, comes only when such corruption causes suffering and pain.

You gaze at the wide space before You! Very well; and You see the thick streams assemble around You? Very well; You have arrived. You are presently in the square.

The Square! Yes, a place where a gelatinous mass happens to formulate, just as yours; there has to be a square, and around the so-called square there lies what has been termed the Borough, and it is not a borough. Squares are made to divide one into two; a city into two cities with disparity between them. You will be persistent to know other rationales for the existence of squares. Be not surprised at my saying that the square is the meeting point for the two boroughs where all merge. No wonder that some feel disgusted, or hold grudges against others, or even that some are surprised at the mere existence of the others; for this is true, and every borough has its

own tale, its own world, and its own dreams. The only passion both share is the hunger for the flesh of the other.

The title story *The Handbag* is of an abstract nature. It is a philosophical inquiry into human existence and a profound re-reading of the biological development of the human being from the womb to the tomb.

No other alternatives are available: You either leave, or surrender your skin to decompose in that gelatinous, black liquid. You cannot resist and tolerate those terrific shots for a long time; leave your kneaded flesh to expand and breathe, breathe something else.

Do You fear the dark? You swim alone in it, while it dwells within You. The audible cries of those who preceded You, resisted within their claims full of liquids as thick as that in yours, they ultimately got out.

Now You are quitting, proceeding, heedless of this imperious, gloomy mass, although You are a tiny part that has not coalesced yet with it. Go ahead, You are ready fusing, lost within its concentration.

Noise deafens your ears! It is not noise, but the echo of your cries; you are now equalized with the rest, a tiny part of an immense, opaque mass, flowing in all directions.

Do not bother yourself with minute details, they are what previously You were. Do you see that shredded thing? It is You, yourself. Or that thing analogous to a woman whose breasts are swelled like a shell about to be fired? That is You, too.

Haven't I requested You not to hush with details surrounding You? You ask about the place! Now there is no place; the pasty mass flows nowhere, divides, scatters, but it shall in a place re-aggregate in its entirety, and then You shall know it.

Why weary your tiny head by turning it around? No matter what capacity it has, You will not be able to see more than the circumference of a semi-circle. You desire to know your size! You cannot. Look in front of You, only forward. There, You can be sure of what You see, but what is beyond, is beyond; it may, or may not, be.

You gaze at the wide space before You! Very well; and You see the thick streams assemble around You? Very well; You have arrived. You are presently in the square.

The Square! Yes, a place where a gelatinous mass happens to formulate, just as yours; there has to be a square, and around the so-called square there lies what has been termed the Borough, and it is not a borough. Squares are made to divide one into two; a city into two cities with disparity between them. You will be persistent to know other rationales for the existence of squares. Be not surprised at my saying that the square is the meeting point for the two boroughs where all merge. No wonder that some feel disgusted, or hold grudges against others, or even that some are surprised at the mere existence of the others; for this is true, and every borough has its

square; enveloped with that fair numbness, You ascend to it. As though in a trance, you surrender your body without recognizing that You have surrendered it to nothing but a huge Yardarm; and its rope, which is a sheer genital organ, will be, in an instant, wound around your neck.

The story is a philosophical meditation on the biological process of human birth, growth, reproduction, and death; a catechism, if you will, between the self and the inner soul, or, if we may venture and claim, an internal dialogue between one's consciousness and one's own subconsciousness.

Sominal questions are raised in this story and replies are given, questions relating to birth, existence, marriage, and ultimately extinction



or death.

The story has probably been misjudged and depreciated by some who, for one reason or another, applied other standards than those of literature to it, classifying it as "licentious" and "immoral."

From a literary point of view, *The Handbag* is a masterpiece by all literary criteria. It is not a story, but rather an introspective meditation on the human race, and the biological creation and development of the species. It is also a philosophical episode that takes place not at a place in time, but within the intellectual domain at my time.

Much remains to be said of *The Handbag* collection, but it would be much better if one could read the whole collection to get a true and just idea about it. Suheir Eitel tackles many political, social, and cultural issues in this collection: Politics, social injustice — especially against women, human suffering, the Intifada, defeatism and Nazism, and many other themes.

A critic once wrote: "I searched for the woman in Suheir Eitel's writing, but only found the human being there."

Fahd A. Salameh is a producer at Radio Jordan. He has an MA in English Literature from the University of Jordan.

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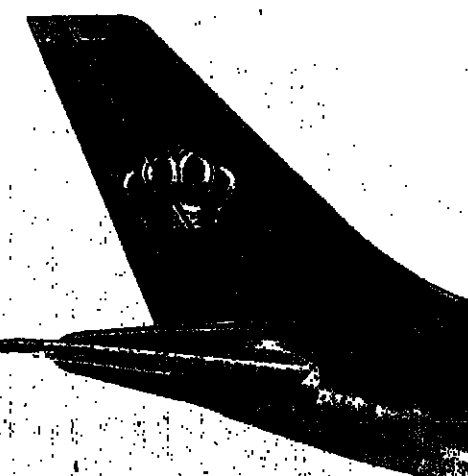
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الخط الجديد



## The Hungarian spirit comes to life in Amman

By Mary Denis  
Special to The Star

AMMAN'S ROYAL Cultural Center provided yet another splendid treat for the nation's music and theater lovers recently, with the unique and splendid performance given by three distinguished Hungarian artists, Katalin Pitti, Ani Peter Szabo and Lilla Mikes.

Presented by the National Music Conservatory, which is always on the look-out for the best, and supported by the Hungarian Embassy and their national airline MALEV, the group performed before a full and enthusiastic house, bringing the spirit of their homeland to the people of Jordan.

Their concert had two distinguishable elements, music and drama. It presented Hungarian folk music and songs with recitations and opera arias interlaced with narrations and acting from 'The Life of Maria Callas'.

From the elegantly designed stage, the artists took their audience on a musical and literary trip through their native land; a country of historical upheavals and tragedies, masterpieces of music and beautiful, proud people.

Their passionate, gypsy-spiced folk music delighted their admiring observers, while classicists among them were equally thrilled by the performance of

pieces by Chopin and Liszt, all accompanied by excellent acting and dazzling costumes.

But the real synthesis of the Hungarian spirit came to life through the Hungarian operettas, pieces based on topical subjects of the day with witty dialogue, occasional satire and folk-dancing. A selection of arias from these operettas were sung by Katalin Pitti in her native tongue.

A performer in major opera houses all over the world, Pitti displayed a lovely combination of a wide-ranging, powerful voice, stage appeal and personal charisma. Her Violetta (from La Traviata), dramatic and doomed, became the center-piece of the whole performance.

Her visible agitation during talks with a reporter before the performance suggested some tiredness on her part. However, when asked if she should get some rest after a long and busy day of rehearsals and sightseeing, Pitti explained that on the day of a performance she preferred to stay physically busy and "nervous." "It helps to tighten my vocal cords which leads to better singing in the evening," she said.

When asked what she did before a morning practice, she laughed. "Well, I just wake up at 4 o'clock in the morning. It gives me sufficient time to get my voice into shape. There is always a good reason for getting ner-



The Hungarian trio: Katalin Pitti, Ani Szabo and Lilla Mikes

vous in the morning at home, and I can 'exercise' my voice by shouting at my family!"

Pitti's piano accompanist, Ani Peter Szabo, combines the rare abilities of being both an accompanist and a soloist in her own right. Asked about the difference between the two, she explained that seldom were soloists able to make good accompanists. The reason she gave was that soloists are only concerned with the piece of music that they alone are playing, while an accompanist is involved with both the singer and the music.

"It is team work," she said. An accompanist, in her view, must not get carried away by the details of the musical piece, but must instead be considerate to

the vocalist and try to artistically lead or sometimes follow the singer.

In her solo presentation of Chopin's Mazurkas, Ani Szabo took up an interesting posture with her arms — elevated elbows, pulled slightly outwards — and long gentle hands, as if an extension of the piano. Perhaps this was the secret behind her powerful staccatos.

The two artists have established a wonderful rapport within the 10 years of their remarkable partnership. Pitti said: "I wouldn't want to work with anybody else. Ani feels every nuance, every detail of my mood and she responds accordingly. She knows exactly how to remedy any difficult situation."

Accompanying actress Lilla Mikes remarked that she was amazed to observe how the Hungarian spirit was known about Hungary and its cultural heritage. She suspected the reason for this lack of communication is the almost "incomprehensible" Hungarian language.

To try and bridge this gap, she and her husband Peter Szabo founded the Korona Podium, some 20 years ago — a theater described by her as a "literary press" and a "cultural theater." It is, in fact, an artistic workshop, the only literary forum of its kind in Europe. Their repertoire includes a wide selection of works by classical and contemporary Hungarian writers and poets, performed in English, German, French and Russian and thus removing the language barrier.

Following the Korona Podium tradition of multilingual presentation, Mikes performed the narrations during the opera evening in English, French and German. She also played tribute to her native tongue by reciting a spiritual ode to the Hungarian language.

In spite of the success of these artists enjoy from performing, the two musicians, Pitti and Szabo would both like to teach and are planning to do so at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music. Despite their popularity as a trio, they offered simply: "It is always wonderful to share."

### Star profile

## Hassan Abu Ghanima: Jordan's foremost cinema expert

FOR THE LAST 23 years, Hassan Abu Ghanima, the Jordanian cinema director, cinema critic and author has been promoting quality cinema to motion picture fans through his books, newspaper articles and TV programs.

One of the first writers to set up cinema and cultural pages in the most prominent newspapers of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, Abu Ghanima also established Jordan's first Cinema Club in 1982 and the Phoenix Cinema Club for children and adults in 1991.

Having graduated as a cinema director in 1969, Abu Ghanima eventually took up writing about the art, and has so far published 17 books. Some of his books have become important cinema reference works, such as his 'World Cinema - Dictionary' (Beirut, 1968), 'About Zionist Cinema' (Amman, 1982), and 'Palestine and The Cinema Bye' (Damascus, 1982).

"People have different tastes in cinema," said Abu Ghanima.

"Their preferences are related to their characters and their psychological and artistic needs at different stages of their development. Whichever film genre we choose, we should look at its different aspects, and how much they satisfy our standards."

He went on: "A good film is one which tackles different human values and develops the sensations of artistic satisfaction and beauty through genuine means. It should also discuss reality in a constructive way and give a chance to the audience to search for solutions through internal dialogues and contemplation."

Abu Ghanima has given great emphasis in his writings to third world cinematography and its outstanding achievements. He mentioned that "the imperialist culture" has a monopoly on the world market by promoting and glorifying American and Euro-



Abu Ghanima in action

pean films and blocking the way for the other parts of the world, when international participation and initiative is required.

"If you take a look at the world

cinema dictionaries or encyclopedias, you will scarcely find any information about Africa and Asia," he said. "I have done a lot of studies and research into film production and film festivals in these areas, and I am planning to include them in my encyclopedia, which I am preparing and hope to finish by next year."

In discussing Jordanian cinematography, Abu Ghanima evaluated it as very poor in terms of professional experience, which includes directing, script writing and the application of film technique.

"Our main problem is that we are trying to imitate others," he said. "It has resulted in a low artistic level of productions and a loss of local touches and honesty."

However he did give mention to the remarkable works of Jordanian directors who live abroad and who have gained international reputations, such as Moustafa Abd Ali in France, Tawfeeq Nasser Sayed in Italy and Mohiyadeen Ghandour in the USA.

"When we talk about Jordanian cinema production, we must talk about the two contradictory parts: On one side we have a domestic production which is incapable of gaining recognition in the Arab countries, and on the other hand we have directors living abroad who have won international awards and achieved an international reputation," he said.

Abu Ghanima explained that the situation at home is a result of the fact that cinema producers haven't received the attention they deserve or enough financial

support from the government or the private sector. He also mentioned that directors do not develop their professional skills as to raise the artistic level of their work. "They simply compare their films to the poor cinematic achievements made in Jordan, which keeps them under the illusion that they are accomplishing something," he said.

Abu Ghanima is very well known among the readers of the Jordanian newspapers Al-Rai and Al-Dustour. For more than 15 years he has been writing about cinema and other art fields for the dailies.

"When I write an article, my aim is to trigger discussion and contemplation amongst those readers who saw the film. At the same time I provoke other readers to see it, and find their own answers to the questions that have raised," he said.

Last year Abu Ghanima finished the writing and directing of his first film, which is currently being processed in Italy. Asked what difference it makes between writing about films and producing them, he said: "As far as I am concerned, the essence of both processes are creating and joy. If I have an idea, doesn't make a big difference whether I am going to express it through words or pictures. It is important that I enjoy my work. And both ways give me lots of pleasure and satisfaction."

THE STAR  
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## AIDS: Meeting The Challenge of Tomorrow

By Maryam Schiller

GENEVA — With every day passing, at least 5,000 more people are becoming infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, if the World Health Organisation's conservative estimates are any guide. Of these HIV victims, many will die of full-blown acquired immune deficiency syndrome before the end of this year.

With the deaths of these people, most of whom are of young age and are educated, and employed in key economic sectors, influence the future of these lucky enough to survive the pandemic? Most experts agree that AIDS is not kind in Europe. Their repertoire includes a wide selection of works by classical and contemporary Hungarian writers and poets, performed in English, German, French and Russian and thus removing the language barrier.

The AIDS pandemic has become a major factor to be reckoned with in the world economy. Michael Merson, director of the WHO's AIDS programme, said that the deaths of so many young and middle-aged people will lead to social and economic disruption and political destabilization in many countries.

He said the toll of AIDS has already reached 10 million people.

And yet the present picture is horrific enough. AIDS has spread faster than it is commonly appreciated and it is gaining speed in a way that is embracing whole populations. About 1.5 million people, including half a million children, already have developed AIDS since it surfaced at the beginning of the 1980s and nine to 11 million have been infected with HIV.

Since AIDS touches on so many aspects of society, he said, the world community needs to launch a response on all fronts. "We must mobilize ministries of



Half a million children now have the AIDS virus

health, labor, education, information and the offices of the prime ministers and the presidents. We need to mobilize non-governmental organizations and community groups as well as the private and commercial sectors." Can such mobilization realistically be possible? Already there are indications that even in the literate societies, such as the United States, the message of the dangers posed by AIDS has not gotten through to people and officials. As it harvests thousands of uneducated men and women in the society, AIDS is causing significant distortions in the pop-

ulation. "We are going to see communities with disproportionate numbers of old people and children compared with those in middle age," predicts Merson. "This will create tragic problems of its own as there will be fewer and fewer economically active people to support those too young and too old to work."

As AIDS spreads, he said, one of the prime needs for national and international organizations will be to prepare for its socio-economic consequences. Although international response to AIDS prevention has increased in the past year, it still falls far

short of target. "We are still short of financial resources (but) I believe that as the social and economic consequences become more evident there will be more investment by the international and bilateral agencies — and also by the private sector."

"There is no question that the private sector in countries should be participating much more actively in AIDS prevention and control activities, given the impact of this pandemic on the workforce." Spending on AIDS prevention efforts may prove to be one of the most sensible investments countries can make.

The direct health costs of the pandemic, although substantial, will be dwarfed by the indirect costs, in particular the loss of income and the decreased productivity of the workforce. In the agricultural sector alone, this will translate into the growing of subsistence rather than cash crops and an emphasis on the less labor-intensive crops.

"What these dry statistics mean in human terms is almost unimaginable for those who have not seen the pandemic at first hand," said Dr Merson. "But we have learned that people can change their behavior if they receive top priority and full commitment from government leaders at the highest level. But the commitment must come now, and from all sectors of society, while there is still time to avert the worst human, social and economic costs of the pandemic." Academic File

## Direct satellite TV reception: Global village is here

By Nadeem W Khoury  
Special to The Star

THE SATELLITE TV reception is direct reception of TV programs transmitted by communications satellites using parabolic antennas and equipment such as converters and receivers.

These systems extract the signal from the high-frequency microwave carrier transmitted by communications satellites. The extracted signal is then connected to a TV set, which keeps them under the illusion that they are accomplishing something," he said.

Abu Ghanima is very well known among the readers of the Jordanian newspapers Al-Rai and Al-Dustour. For more than 15 years he has been writing about cinema and other art fields for the dailies.

"When I write an article, my aim is to trigger discussion and contemplation amongst those readers who saw the film. At the same time I provoke other readers to see it, and find their own answers to the questions that have raised," he said.

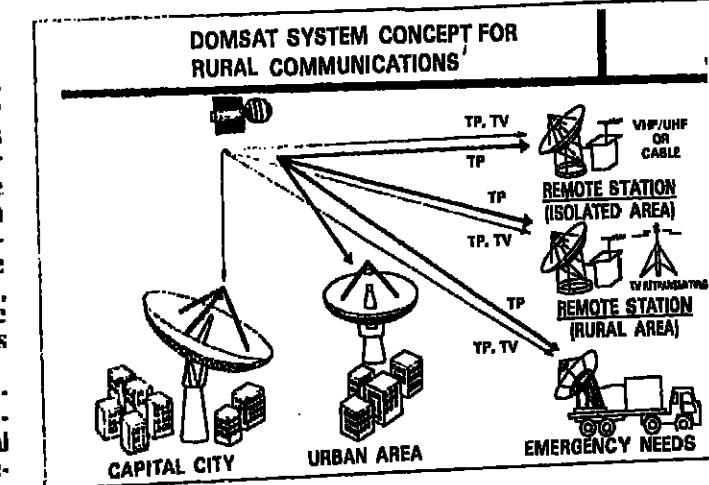
Last year Abu Ghanima finished the writing and directing of his first film, which is currently being processed in Italy. Asked what difference it makes between writing about films and producing them, he said: "As far as I am concerned, the essence of both processes are creating and joy. If I have an idea, doesn't make a big difference whether I am going to express it through words or pictures. It is important that I enjoy my work. And both ways give me lots of pleasure and satisfaction."

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the receiving system needed to pick the signals up. The following years witnessed continuous developments in the technology of communications satellites along with the birth of a number of domestic and regional satellite communications networks such as the EUTELSAT System (European Community Satellite Communications Organization), the ARABSAT System (The Arab Satellite Communications Organization) and many others.

The main advantage of satellite communications is its capacity to give 100% geographical coverage for its intended regions. Whenever the area to be served is vast and inaccessible, satellite communications have proved to be the most feasible approach, both technically and financially. One example is the Indonesian PALAPPA System which serves thousands of islands constituting the State of Indonesia.

Interest in direct satellite TV reception in the Middle East region started in the early '80s and was primarily motivated by the American Forces Satellite TV Feeds relayed via INTELSAT. This was followed by the appearance of a number of regular TV transmissions via ARAB-SAT. In the late '80s, CNN INTL started transmitting via one of the Soviet Gorizont Satellites; after its reception was blocked by a scrambling of the signal. This was followed by the start of TV broadcasting through ARABSAT's high power S-band transponder, which carried the Egyptian Satellite Channel and the Middle East Broadcasting Channel (MBC) from London. Recently, a number of TV programs started their English-



Satellite dishes: New laws are needed

speaking transmissions from Hong Kong via ASIATASAT, while BBC TV started transmitting through the same satellite. It is expected that the coming years will bring further surprises, the extent and impact of which cannot be estimated yet. Already available are a number of direct broadcast satellites (DBS), which are characterized by extremely high power transmissions allowing the reception of clear signals using dishes slightly larger than kitchen plates.

The speedy development of direct reception technology has led to confusion and embarrassment among media authorities throughout the world, particularly in developing countries. Similar confusion and controversy appeared in Europe in the early '80s when the satellite TV boom started, and almost all satellite transmissions extended far beyond their geographical boundaries. At first these European countries expressed worry and conservatism, however it was

not long before they realized that the practical approach would be to adapt themselves to the situation and not to fight it.

In the Middle East, this new technology was and is still a subject of controversy among media planners. Initial reactions were the same everywhere — absolute rejection of the invading enemy, who threaten to destroy media privacy and control. This was reflected by strict regulations and laws forbidding any "illegal" dealings with the undesired outsider. Despite this, various brands of dishes started to appear on rooftops of private houses and apartment buildings. Media officials reacted in even stronger terms, but they had no practical measures with which to put an end to the phenomenon, or even to control it.

One example of this is Saudi Arabia. Despite very strict media restrictions in the country, a recent aerial survey revealed a total of 35,000 dishes spread all over the country. This figure did

not include hidden ones, which when counted may double or treble the figure. Nonetheless the law remains unchanged, forbidding and rejecting.

The situation is no better in other neighbouring countries. In the UAE, for example, an Act was issued at an early stage aiming to control this phenomenon. As a result, media officials boasted of being the first and only party in the region who had managed to control the situation at the right time. However, dishes started to gradually appear, filling the gardens and rooftops regardless of the Act. Once again, the hapless officials found themselves in no position but to accept the situation.

In North African countries, where a higher number of TV channels can be received due to geographical location, this subject was dealt with positively. In Tunisia, for example, the law permits acquiring Ku-band TVRO-s, inherently smaller in size than their C-band counterparts. Other larger dishes are permitted only in special cases. In Morocco and in Algeria, the door has been open wide for various kinds of systems.

To make one final comment on the subject, it is a fact of life that trends of progress and technology can not be stopped or reversed. Lagging behind policies of indecision can temporarily decelerate this progress but can never stop it. The day will come when satellite communications will become as close to our daily lives as the phone or TV set. Consequently, banning can only worsen matters, while the only way to control our newcomer is through accepting and taming it, and not by fighting it.

Nadeem W. Khoury is a satellite communications specialist and is the ex-director of ARABSAT ground control network.

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After the snow



## Our Say....

## Dealing with the weather

JORDAN AND its neighboring countries have been blessed this year with an exceptionally good winter. The season is far from over and yet the Ministry of Water has confirmed that all Jordanian dams and water reservoirs have been filled to the brim, and that any additional rainwater will have to be released into the sea and desert. Apart from minor damages to north Jordan Valley farms due to sub-zero temperatures, and the destruction of some plastic houses as a result of stormy winds, the agricultural season this year, and indeed next year, promises excellent yields.

The government decision (two years ago) to enhance its water catchment policy in the desert by building sand barriers across dry water beds seems to have paid off well this year. It would be wise on the government's part to seriously consider building a number of dams in the southern region on the canyons of Karak and Tafleh to control flash floods, which brought havoc upon the people of the south last year, and to use precious water for irrigation during the dry and long summer months.

But this year's heavy snow storms appear to have caught everybody by surprise. While we do not underestimate the enormous efforts of the cadres of the Civil Defense, Public Security, the Army, Public Works, municipal and even the private sector to open snow blocked roads, restore electric power and other services to our cities and villages, the fact of the matter is that our capabilities for handling such natural events which force themselves upon us fall far below what is expected.

In the last two snow storms, most of Amman's suburbs remained in virtual isolation for two or maybe three days, bringing economic activity to a halt. Most villages in the north and south were cut off from the rest of the country, not to mention the loss of electric power and water supplies, which made life for most people unbearable in extremely cold weather.

As a result, schools and universities were closed for days, and factories and financial institutions barely stayed open — since most employees and workers were unable to leave their houses either by public transportation or even by their own cars. The economic losses because of these obligatory holidays have been immeasurable.

As the weatherman predicts more snow for the coming days and maybe weeks, the issue here becomes much more than just missing a couple of days from work. The country is crippled once these storms hit the region — a serious matter that requires attention at the highest levels.

Private and public sectors must pool their resources together to keep our highways open and our suburbs accessible at all times. Our factories, banks, public and private facilities, schools and universities will not be made to suffer if the situation is better managed the next time a blizzard comes our way. ■



## South Africa's dispossessed fight for their real homelands

By Donald Seokane

JOHANNESBURG—As South Africa lurches erratically towards majority rule, the grievances of Africans who have been forced off their land are beginning to be heard. And some are taking direct action.

"Land restitution," says political analyst Eugene Nyathi, "is vital in addressing the sins of apartheid."

As a woman from Khayelitsha said in a letter to the Cape Times in 1990: "Mandela has been released. Now where is my house?"

The issue is the key to a range of environmental problems which stem from the fact that five-sixths of the population have been forced to live on 13 per cent of the land.

Dispossessed communities are angry that the government's recently published land reform proposals do not address the legacy of forced removals, like that experienced by the 20,000 people of Driefontein, a rural area in south-east Transvaal.

The land was bought by the Native Farmers Association in 1912, as freehold property to be held in perpetuity by the buyers and their heirs. The following year the Land Act prohibited Africans from "entering into any agreement or transactions for the purchase, hire or other acquisition of any land."

Land acquired before the passing of the 1913 Act and lying inside government-defined white areas was officially termed a black spot. Africans staying in black spots became subject to harshly implemented forced removal measures which were intended to complete the white dream of grand apartheid.

Until the 1980s, the approach of the white governments was to move such communities to the so-called Homelands — the ethnically-based "states" which the South African government used to enforce apartheid and to divide the black opposition. The Independent Urban Foundation says that the removal of black spots is closely linked to "homeland" consolidation policies, which are premised on the elimination of all African-owned areas outside "homeland" boundaries.

In 1965 the government decided to remove the Driefontein black spot. Over the next two decades it offered a succession of reasons for moving the community, including the likely effects of flooding from the proposed Heyshope dam on the Assegai river. The Urban Foundation points out that it subsequently became clear that less than a third of the area would be flooded.

The community did not take the government threats seriously until 1981, when the South African Development Trust served it with formal notice to move.

People were pressured into acceptance by being told that if they did not sign they would not get compensation. By mid-1982 about 500 people had moved "voluntarily."

As pressures to induce the remaining people to move intensified, so did the opposition, despite the killing of Driefontein's leader at a protest rally in 1983. In the ensuing two years, the opposition campaign was further stepped up, using legal measures and community action. The government was embarrassed by local and foreign media attention and in 1985 announced it was backing down.

But this was a rare success. The Transvaal Rural Action Committee estimates that more than 3.5 million people have



been forcibly removed from their land — and many are now claiming it back. Among the claimants are the Barokwa BaMothaba people who early in 1991 were charged with trespassing as they tried to reclaim their land in a village in Transvaal province, from which they were ejected in 1971. The charges were subsequently dropped.

Another group of villagers, from Goedgoed, were uprooted from their homes in 1978 and dumped at vriesburg, western Transvaal. Their leader, Obelie Segopolo, says they were promised better land but the soil was unproductive and not conducive to farming. To add insult to injury, the area was incorporated into the Bophuthatswana "homeland."

He recalls: "We were faced with constant harassment from the Bophuthatswana police for refusing to accept the homeland's citizenship."

"The odds against us were formidable. Those who tried their hand at farming faced seven years of drought in the area. We had nowhere to go for aid. The government told us that the area had been incorporated into Bophuthatswana and there was nothing they could do. But we could not, cap in hand, approach the homeland authorities after rejecting their citizenship."

It was the government's land reform proposals — and failure to tackle the issue of lost land — that provoked the Goedgoed people to reclaim their land.

Star Molsweke, a fieldworker for the Transvaal Rural Action Committee, says other groups have reacted in the same way: "On realizing that they would not get their land back, they became disillusioned with the land reforms and are now reclaiming their lands."

The government proposals dismiss restoration of land to individuals and communities as unfeasible: "Apart from the vast potential for conflict inherent in such a programme, overlapping and contradictory claims to such land would make its implementation extremely difficult, if not impossible."

The National Land commission has said that rejection of restitution to the victims of forced removals amounts to entrenching the injustices of apartheid. It points out that most of the land affected remains in the government's hands and is still vacant. ■

Donald Seokane is a journalist with South Africa's Sowetan newspaper.

By Inder Malhotra

LIKE INDIVIDUALS disoriented by jet-lag, nations are finding it hard to come to grips with sudden and sweeping changes in the world. These are doubtless staggering in both scale and speed. In fact, they baffle the mind.

For over four decades after the end of the Second World War the international power structure had remained largely as the Big Powers had ordained it to be at Yalta. This was so despite wholesale decolonization (rapid at first but painfully slow in surviving pockets of imperial and racial intrusiveness), the Chinese revolution and the startling economic progress of the two countries humbly defeating in 1945, Germany and Japan.

With Yalta had coincided the dawn of the nuclear age. The subsequent spread of nuclear weapons and the eventual balance of nuclear terror made a clash of arms or a war between mighty nations virtually unthinkable. But this is no way diminished the fury of the global Cold War which became the central reality of the post-war world. There are surely other conflicts with causes and dynamics of their own. But they were all subordinated to the overarching Cold War between the superpower blocs, the democratic and capitalist West, led by the United States, and the Communist camp, tightly controlled by the essentially totalitarian Soviet Union. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was the sword-arm of the one side and the Warsaw Pact of the other.

Now, less than three years after the demolition of the Berlin Wall, not by the governments concerned but by the people, the Cold War has become a thing of the past. What is more, this has not happened as a result of detente between the two superpowers. The Cold War has ended because of the retreat of the Soviet power, the root of the Communist ideology, the leading up of the Warsaw Pact and finally the disintegration of the Soviet Union as we have known it. The old, bipolar world has gone apparently for good.

This combined with the swift victory of the US-led military coalition in the Gulf War, triggered by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's brazen attempt to annex Kuwait, has given rise to the belief that the world from now onwards, is going to be a multipolar one. The overblown American hegemony and the pathetic cries of subject peoples on the US emanating from everywhere are left of the Soviet Union, have strengthened the concept of a unipolar world in the making.

And yet this concept, though not utterly preposterous, is so flawed as to be inaccurate, to say the least. Undoubtedly, the US today is the mightiest nation militarily. But it should not be overlooked that even the Russian Federation, to say nothing of the Commonwealth of Independent States, is going to rig up, has enough nuclear weapons to destroy the United States.

Moreover — and more importantly — America has ceased to be economically pre-eminent. On the contrary, its economy is in a hell of a mess. Despite reassuring noises from the White House no American is in any doubt that things will get a lot worse before they can become better. And this is happening at a time when the technological military power are becoming increasingly manifest and the economic might is turning out to be truly decisive.

Consider some of the stark facts: In less than a decade, America has converted itself from the largest creditor nation to the largest debtor in the world. Its foreign reserves, still on the increase, has reached the astronomical figure of a trillion dollars. The size of its cumulative budget deficit is almost exactly the same. No more than 34 million Americans live below the poverty line. Slums and shanties are the ones in Bombay and Calcutta are being built up in Manhattan because both unemployment and homelessness are rising by the day. The jobs can get help only from the welfare state. American banks are failing by the dozens. Hedgefunds of other business are equally rampant. The once low-

After the death of the old order  
A grand world disorder  
An Indian point of view of things to come

American pre-eminence — for how long?

ering automobile industry has never known anything like the current crisis since Henry Ford developed the Model T. Citicorp, the biggest banking institution in the Western world, after declaring a whopping loss, is looking for someone to merge with in order to survive. A job with IBM used to mean guaranteed employment for life. But this giant conglomerate was forced to lay off 27,000 employees only the other day. The most shattering commentary on American power is that the US has received from Japan and Germany, as their contribution to the war against Iraq, more money than America actually spent on the fighting in the desert. John F. Kennedy's brave declaration that the US would "pay any price" to defend freedom anywhere appears to have gone with the winds of recession.

Of course, one should not get carried away. The very fact that the US could make Japan and Germany cough up all the cash it counted means that it has enough geopolitical and diplomatic clout to maintain a leading role. There has been no reluctance on America's part to tell other countries, individually and collectively, how they should manage their affairs or respond to American demands on issues like trade, human rights and nuclear non-proliferation. But the question is: For how long? It is no mere coincidence that on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, many Americans are talking of an impending "economic Pearl Harbor." A book forecasting an economic war between Japan and the US is being taken seriously on both sides of the Pacific. America gives Israel every year aid amounting to \$3,000 for every Israeli man, woman and child. And yet Israel has had no hesitation to dictate to Washington the timing of the second round of the direct Arab-Israeli talks. To attribute this entirely to the formidable power of the Jewish lobby would not be correct. The profound political and social consequences of the Ameri-

disorder.

It is in this context that the place of India or any other country in the still emerging world order has to be discussed. But before doing so, one important point of great contemporary significance ought to be made.

The visit to India by Premier Li Peng of China has enabled him and his Indian host, P.V. Narasimha Rao, to make it clear to the world that the two countries, speaking for 40 per cent of the globe's population, are firmly opposed to the world order being made an "oligarchy" of any one country or a small group of countries. They demand that the future world order must be fair and equitable to all nations, big or small, strong or weak.

In doing so, the prime ministers of India and China have taken an unexceptionable and commendable stand. Others, hopefully, would endorse their sentiment and through such institutions as the NAM, G-7 and indeed the UN try to promote their underlying objective. But that having been said, it must be added that at every step the situation has to be looked at realistically, not with rose-tinted glasses.

For instance, no one should run away with the impression that China is out to lead or join a crusade against the United States or is looking for "strategic allies" for this purpose. China, which was happy to be a "strategic ally" of the United States only a few years ago, has many differences with the US. But the Chinese are sorting out these discords, despite an occasional show of defiance, with great skill and sophistication which is worthy of emulation.

Even on the issue of human rights, over which Sino-US differences are acute, the Chinese have, on the one hand, stated that no country should interfere in their internal affairs. On the other hand, they have had no reluctance to answer detailed American questions in relation to no fewer than 800 separate cases of alleged hu-

Americans have made it clear that the Chinese terms would be met! Add to this the fact that China would sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a nuclear-weapon power and therefore would have all the privileges that the US and other nuclear weapon powers have and the complexity of the US-China equation becomes clear. Anyone who fails to perceive that China's paramount objective in its dealings with the United States is to secure every year its Most Favored Nation status in trading matters is bound to reach very misleading conclusions.

If this be the situation of a mighty country like China, the ambiguities of others are bound to be greater. This might explain why as many as five heads of state absented themselves from the Caracas summit of the G-15, the effective arm of the very large group of developing countries that has been struggling so hard, but so far vainly, for a new and just international economic order.

To say this is not to spread pessimism about the prospect of resisting improper demands in the name of fashioning a new world order. On the contrary, the purpose is to point out that the world is unlikely to be unipolar. It will almost certainly be a polycentric place, with Japan's economic might on the Pacific Rim and reunified Germany providing the ballast to a fast integrating Europe, Britain's reservations and foot-dragging notwithstanding. These are not circumstances in which oligarchies can be firmly established. In fact, the situation leaves a lot of room for maneuverability for even less powerful countries, individually and collectively.

Against this backdrop India's position, options and role in the emerging world order should not be too difficult to delineate with reasonable confidence.

In the first place, India may suffer somewhat in relation to those powers which have both nuclear weapons and a permanent seat in the UN security council with the right to veto. A careful reading of the speech by US Secretary of State James Baker just before his latest visit to China would underline how important these two instruments of power continue to be. Even so, India's power and potential are not negligible.

In fact, India is the second most populous country in the world, occupying a very strategic location in the heart of the Indian Ocean, straddling West Asia and South-East Asia. India also has the world's third largest reservoir of highly trained scientific and technological manpower.

In conventional terms, it is the fourth largest military power. It was the sixth nation to detonate a nuclear device, though for a purely peaceful experiment, way back in 1974. Its space program places it in the top seven countries in that league and it is among the first ten industrial nations. More important than past performance is future potential.

Here the most vital single factor — in a world where the Gospel according to St. Marx has failed and St. Market seems to have become the messiah everyone is looking up to — is the size of India's market. Despite its poverty and problems, this country has 150 million people with the living standard and purchasing power of the Italians.

The belief that in a world without the Cold War, non-alignment and NAM have become irrelevant is as flawed as the doctrine of a unipolar world. The essence of non-alignment is independence of judgement. In that sense, non-alignment would always remain relevant and resonant. India's leading position among the non-aligned will, therefore, always strengthen its bargaining capacity.

Altogether, therefore, India is not a helpless spectator to whatever may be happening in relation to the new world order. It is a substantial actor in that drama.

If there are certain features of the world situation which are not to our liking, a number of other things have happened to conform to our wishes which

Continued on page 13

The old order may well be dead, but there is no knowing when the new one will be born or whether it will be born at all. We might end up with a grand world disorder.

can mess have thrown serious doubts on President Bush's chances of re-election.

In short, the situation is vastly more complex than the glib talk of Pax Americana makes it out to be. Indeed, even the prediction of a new world order falling into place in the near future seems premature. The old order may well be dead, but there is no knowing when the new one will be born or whether it will be born at all. We might end up with a grand world

man rights violation.

More to the point is the Chinese response to the American demand for the termination of supplies of nuclear technology or missiles to Iran, Pakistan, Algeria and so on. The cheerful Chinese stance is that they would comply provided the United States first lifts the embargo it has placed on the supply of fast computers and other equipment required by Beijing for China's own missile program! The

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# Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Retour

## Le projet Club Med remonte à la surface

Gilbert Trigano était à Amman ces jours derniers. Objectif: relancer un projet, qui a trois ans déjà. Un village de vacances et deux hôtels.

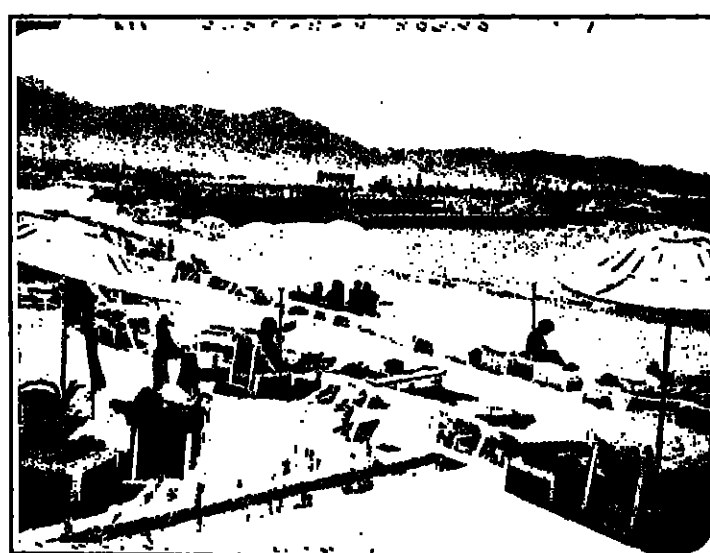
"NOUS TRAVAILLONS sur le village de vacances à Aqaba, nous voulons le mettre en route le plus vite possible. Nous espérons qu'il sera bouclé dans deux ans", Gilbert Trigano, PDG de Club Méditerranée tape du poing sur la table. Il a fait le voyage avec le ministre du Tourisme français pour une seule et unique raison: il entend bien réveiller son projet, en sommeil depuis trois ans.

Cette fois devrait être la bonne: "Alia, qui s'est retirée sera remplacée par des privés jordaniens comme ça existe dans les autres pays". Ces derniers doivent apporter 51% du capital de la joint-venture "Holiday Village of Jordan". Le Club Méditerranée qui a déjà versé plus d'un million de francs dans le projet, détiendra 49%. Coût total: environ 20 millions de dollars.

"En principe, c'est oui!"

Au ministère du Tourisme jordanien, on voit le Club Med d'un très bon œil. Lors de la courte visite de la délégation française en Jordanie, le secrétaire général, Nasri Atalla n'a pas quitté d'une semelle un petit homme à lunettes: Gilbert Trigano. "Le Club Méditerranée, c'est pour nous un projet intéressant, nous avons encore à entrer dans les détails, mais en principe c'est oui", affirme Nasri Atalla. Il ajoute: "Ce qui est bien, c'est qu'ils font leur marketing eux-mêmes, ils distribuent 15 millions de catalogues partout dans le monde. De plus ils sont édités en sept langues différentes. Cela peut représenter une excellente publicité pour Aqaba". Seule restriction: "Nous ne pouvons pas avoir un Club fermé au monde jordanien, nous avons des traditions qui doivent être respectées".

Gilbert Trigano veut faire vite. Pour lui, l'étendard du Club doit flotter le plus rapidement possible sur la rade d'Aqaba. L'hiver prochain, un bateau estampillé Club Méditerranée doit mouiller dans cette zone. Les lignes de ce projet sont encore floues. Gilbert Trigano doit remettre un dossier complet au ministère du Tourisme jordanien courant février. "Nous attendons une lettre", con-



Aqaba attend son Club Med



Nasri Atalla



Gilbert Trigano

firme le secrétaire général, Nasri Atalla.

Sur les bords de la mer rouge, les réactions sont positives. "Ils vont apporter une certaine confiance dans la région ce qui nous permettra de travailler plus efficacement", confie Simon Khoury, patron de la chaîne Aquamarina (Trois hôtels de luxe, 500 lits). Et la concurrence? "Nos prix sont compétitifs, nous avons des hôtels, nous sommes spécialisés dans la plongée et les sports sous-marins. Mais je le répète, leur présence va nous être bénéfique, le Club Méditerranée va nous aider à nous faire connaître sur le marché français", ajoute-t-il.

L'idée de construire un Club Méditerranée à Al Yamania, tout près d'Aqaba date d'octobre

1988. Le 20, le numéro un mondial des villages de vacances et la Royal Jordanian Airlines avaient signé un protocole d'accord pour la création d'une société "joint-venture". Son but: développer le tourisme en Jordanie. Et construire le fameux club méditerranéen, un village de 600 lits, sur un terrain de 12 hectares. Sans oublier deux villas de 120 lits chacune, près du site archéologique de Pétra et du Wadi Rum, le désert de Lawrence d'Arabie. Malgré la parenthèse de la guerre du Golfe, et les difficultés de l'un des deux partenaires de départ, le village d'Aqaba semble sur la bonne voie. Les plages de la mer rouge devraient bientôt accueillir les célèbres G.O. et G.M. du Club Med.

Francis Mazoyer



Téléx... Orient

■ **COCORICO** - C'est le réveil de la présence économique française en Jordanie. En plus des agents traditionnels de sociétés (Renault, Peugeot, Moulinex, Michelin, Cnlor...), dix sept filiales et représentations sont actuellement présentes dans le royaume, selon un recensement du Poste d'expansion économique français à Amman. Six d'entre-elles ont une responsabilité régionale (Proche-Orient). Au total, cela représente une quarantaine d'ingénieurs ou de techniciens. Des Français travaillent aussi dans l'automobile et dans la confection féminine.

■ **KOWEIT** - La France va accorder un prêt de cinq milliards de francs (environ 918 millions de dollars) au Koweït. C'est le ministre des finances français, Pierre Bergevoy qui l'a annoncé la semaine passée lors de son voyage dans l'émirat. Ce prêt est une contribution de son pays à la reconstruction du pays, après la guerre du Golfe. Le coût de la reconstruction du pays est estimé entre 20 et 30 milliards de dollars.

■ **OTAGES** - Plus de mille "otages" koweïtiens sont encore retenus en Irak pour des raisons inconnues, a déclaré le président de l'Association koweïtienne de défense des victimes de la guerre (KADWW). Sur 1.053 personnes, selon les chiffres de l'association, 546 sont retenues dans des prisons-camps. On est sans nouvelles des 507 autres.

■ **MANOEUVRES** - Environ 500 militaires français vont participer du 21 au 28 février à des manœuvres militaires aux Emirats Arabes Unis. Des navires, des avions de chasse et des blindés seront impliqués. C'est la première fois que des manœuvres d'une telle ampleur sont organisées entre les deux pays.

Téléx... France

■ **FOUS** - "Ils sont tous fous". Telle a été la réaction de François Mitterrand en apprenant la semaine dernière à Oman, que des hauts fonctionnaires avaient accepté l'hospitalisation à Paris du dirigeant palestinien, George Habache. "Ils n'ont pas eu l'humanité" a-t-il déclaré à propos des cinq hauts fonctionnaires qui ont dû démissionner. Pour Farouq Qaddoumi, directeur du pouvoir avaient approuvé l'entrée du dirigeant du Front populaire de libération de la Palestine sur le territoire français. "C'est n'est pas la première fois qu'un leader palestinien se rend en France pour un traitement médical", a ajouté Farouq Qaddoumi.

■ **TOURISME** - Avant de s'envoler pour la Jordanie, le ministre du Tourisme français, Jean Michel Baylet a donné le coup d'envoi d'une campagne de publicité. But de l'opération: mieux vendre le tourisme français à l'étranger. 130 millions de francs (24 millions de dollars) seront consacrés en 1992 à cette campagne. L'accent est mis sur sept marchés prioritaires, représentant 85 % du marché global: la Grande Bretagne, l'Allemagne, les Etats-Unis, l'Italie, la Belgique, l'Espagne et les Pays-Bas.

■ **EXPATRIES** - 1,3 million de français habitent à l'étranger, selon l'OMI, l'office des migrations internationales. 52,4% d'entre-eux résident en Europe, quelque 13,4% en Afrique, 10,8% en Amérique du Nord, 6,4% en Asie, 1,8% en Océanie et 15,2% au Proche et Moyen-Orient.

A VOIR...

■ **CINEMA** - Cycle "les choses de la vie" au Centre culturel français. Lundi 10 février à 20h00, "Thérèse" (1987), un film d'Alain Cavalier, avec Catherine Mouchet. Devenue carmélite, Thérèse Martin va tenter de mener une vie parfaite. Mais la mort de son père va ouvrir une blessure inguérissable.

■ **EXPO** - Le vernissage de l'exposition "Peintures d'enfants" prévue au CCF le mardi 4 février à 18h00 a été annulé en raison du mauvais temps. L'inauguration est reportée au mardi 11, à la même heure. Cette exposition est consacrée aux peintures des enfants de l'Ecole Maternelle Française d'Amman.

Nouveauté

## Le minitel, serveur du tourisme jordanien

Un clavier branché sur une ligne téléphonique. Au bout du fil, des infos sur la Jordanie. Le minitel a été inauguré samedi dernier par le ministre du Tourisme français et son homologue jordanien.

"Je tiens à exprimer ma fierté, la réussite d'une démonstration technologique et intéressante de la technologie française...". Le ministre du Tourisme jordanien, Jean Michel Baylet, passe à la barre pour exprimer le discours officiel. Son homologue jordanien, Rana Safadi, est sur la même ligne d'ondes: "Les possibilités du minitel sont larges, nous espérons que la coopération avec la France va s'accroître..."

Le minitel est sur la même ligne d'ondes: "Les possibilités du minitel sont larges, nous espérons que la coopération avec la France va s'accroître..."

Le minitel dispose de 40 minutes de terminaux branchés à des lignes téléphoniques. Ils permettent d'avoir accès au seul serveur existant en Jordanie. Les étrangers venus du monde entier peuvent consulter gratuitement les plus grands hôtels d'Amman.

"Délices d'intérêt"

Une histoire du minitel commence un jour en 1987. Gérard Loiseau, Michel Seureau, Attaché français de l'époque évolue au cours d'une conversation à bâtons rompus. La machine semble lancée. Aussitôt, coup de frein de l'expert français: "Les Jordaniens ne connaissent pas la télématique, il faut d'abord les sensibiliser plutôt que de leur vendre un système clé en main". En février 1988, cinq jordaniens se rendent à Paris et prennent leurs premiers contacts avec l'engin. Le représentant du ministère de l'Education découvre le serveur de l'Académie de Paris. Celui de l'Information s'extasie devant le service télématique du quotidien "Le Monde".

"Les Jordaniens se sont trouvés devant quelque chose de complètement nouveau", affirme Claude Loiseau, ils avaient découvert une idée de ce qu'on pouvait faire avec un minitel. De retour en Jordanie, des délices d'intérêt pouvaient se produire. C'est le grand absent de la réunion de Paris qui va hériter



Les deux experts savourent leur victoire

du dossier: le ministre du Tourisme. Son secrétaire général, Nasri Atalla ne cache pas son intérêt quasi immédiat pour ce projet: "Le minitel, c'est quelque chose d'extraordinaire, c'est une très bonne idée". Dans la foulée, le ministre nomme son expert, Rana Safadi, une jeune étudiante. "Je connaissais le Français, c'est pour cela qu'on m'a choisi. C'était le début d'une toute nouvelle expérience. Moi qui ai suivi des études de littérature française et anglaise, jamais je n'aurais pensé à ça".

Rana Safadi se rend à plusieurs reprises en France. Objectif: apprendre à organiser le serveur, à agencer les informations. Petit à petit, elle devient "Mademoiselle Minitel" en Jordanie. Un deuxième expert jordanien de la Royal Scientific Society (RSS), sera chargé de veiller sur l'ordinateur central du ministère du Tourisme. "Nous voulions un

serveur fait par les Jordaniens et contrôlé par les Jordaniens" affirme l'expert français, Claude Loiseau. "A ce moment là, début 1990, le projet était bien parti, les minitels avaient été envoyés" ajoute-t-il. Inauguration prévue le 25 Août. La guerre du Golfe a volé la "Une" des médias au minitel.

Retour à la salle luxueuse du Regency Palace Hôtel. "C'est la première étape pour le minitel jordanien" affirme Claude Loiseau. En France, 6 millions d'abonnés ont accès à 15.000 services différents. Cela va de l'annuaire électronique, aux opérations de virement bancaire. Sans oublier les jeux en tout genre. Conclusion de Rana Safadi: "Dans cinq ans, les particuliers jordaniens auront leur minitel à la maison. Soyons patients".

Michel Armand

## Cinéma

### 'Naji Al Ali' en deuxième semaine

Jordaniens bravent le froid pour aller voir le film sur le peuple palestinien. Les temps qui courent, les Jordaniens se réfugient au cinéma. Ils ne manquent pas: "Naji Al Ali, nation et liberté". La trame: une histoire de caricaturiste palestinien et le mystère qui entoure son œuvre. Une histoire qui porte en elle la souffrance de la diaspora palestinienne.

Le film de Naji Al Ali, c'est celle d'"Handhalah". "Mes chers locataires", confie Rana Ibrahim, spectateur de base. Et dans n'importe quel pays du monde, mes yeux se tournent vers la Palestine. "Handhalah, simple caricature d'un jeune homme qui tourne le dos à tout le monde, est le symbole des œuvres de Naji Al Ali".

Le film, qui commence par la guerre de 1948, se focalise sur la vie du peuple palestinien et sur l'incapacité à affronter l'armée israélienne. Une voix résonne à plusieurs reprises: "Où sont les arabes?".

Le film a un grand succès en Jordanie. Les responsables de la cinémathèque ont décidé de le laisser à l'affiche plus longtemps que prévu. C'est pourquoi la première fois qu'on projette un film patriotique, on le projette en deux fois. Le film sera projeté deux fois par semaine, nous allons lancer une campagne de publicités pour le film. Le film tombe en pleine conférence de presse de la fondation Schomane. Assad Abdul Rahman, directeur du film, a pour conditionner les foules ou pour influencer les spectateurs, lui apportant la contradiction en reprenant les propos du film.

Saeeda Kilani



## Encore la neige!

■ **LA JORDANIE** à nouveau vêtue de son manteau blanc! C'est la seconde grosse tempête depuis le début de l'année. Le spectacle est pour le moins insolite: le royaume n'avait connu de telles chutes de neige depuis une vingtaine d'années. Mardi, 40 cm dans les quartiers-ouest d'Amman, à Ajloun et à Tafila dans le sud du pays. La neige a causé de nombreuses coupures d'électricité et des inondations. Dans les zones les plus élevées, les routes étaient impraticables jusqu'à mercredi matin. Heureusement, aucune mort n'est à déplorer.

Cette nouvelle tempête est due à l'arrivée d'une dépression en provenance d'Europe de l'Est. Toute la région a subi les foudres du ciel, l'Egypte, Israël, la Syrie, les Territoires-occupés et la Jordanie. Dans le sud du royaume et en Israël, les vents ont atteint 170 km/h. En Egypte, la tempête de sable a bloqué l'aéroport du Caire et le port d'Alexandrie. Hier, le soleil a fait de brèves apparitions sur la Jordanie. Mais attention! De nouvelles chutes de neige sont attendues dans la journée.

## L'EDITO

de Sulaiman Sweiss

## Les femmes veulent casser les prix

MIEUX VAUT tard que jamais! Nos syndicats et associations commencent à se réveiller. Après le conflit social à la compagnie d'électricité, les revendications des médecins spécialistes et ingénieurs, voici l'Union Générale des Femmes.

En collaboration avec d'autres associations, dont celle de la protection des consommateurs, nos femmes s'en vont en guerre contre la hausse des prix.

Si elle aboutit, les hommes pourront aimer leurs femmes! Et les remercie... Depuis quelques années, les prix augmentent. Le gouvernement n'annonce même plus les "réfixations", terme édulcoré qui veut dire hausse. Chaque semaine, un nouvel article se paye plus cher. De temps en temps, les caricaturistes illustrent même l'inflation par un gorille qui enfonce ses griffes dans le dos du citoyen.

La stagnation des salaires des fonctionnaires de l'Etat depuis 1985 rend le gorille de plus en plus méchant. Une maigre augmentation de 10 JD a été annoncée à partir du 1er janvier dernier. Une façon comme une autre de lacher du lest. Et d'éviter provisoirement la grogne.

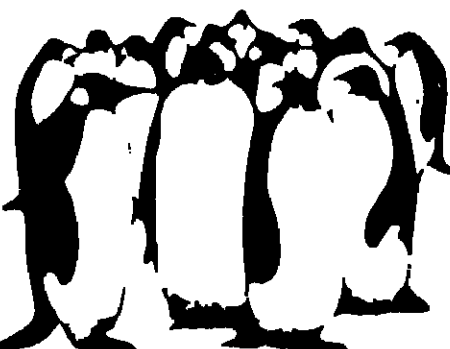
En 1989 et en 1990, lorsqu'on demandait à un commerçant les raisons de la hausse, il formulait une réponse toute faite: la dévaluation du Dinar. Depuis, nous ne croyons plus à ces prétextes. Pour beaucoup de citoyens, les prix exorbitants sont dus à la "gourmandise des commerçants". La faiblesse du contrôle gouvernemental les encourage également à jouer avec les étiquettes.

La campagne des femmes tombe à point. Elles exigent du ministère de l'approvisionnement, l'installation d'un contrôle sévère des prix. Cette action "anti vie chère" tente de convaincre les chefs de famille de boycotter les commerçants exploitateurs. Ce moyen s'est avéré efficace il y a quelques années en Egypte. Les femmes refusaient d'acheter la viande à 7 L.E le kilo. Au bout de deux semaines, les bouchers reculaient et baissaient les prix.

Nous avions tellement besoin d'une telle campagne. Pour élever la conscience du consommateur jordanien. Longtemps, celui-ci est resté sans bouger, assis sur sa chaise. Il est grand temps de sortir de cette léthargie. En avant les femmes. Les hommes sont à vos côtés.



# AROUND TOWN



**Congratulations!!**  
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....

Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

● Her Majesty Queen Noor patronized last Wednesday the graduation ceremony of the 1991-1992 students of Rafida Al Aslamyeh and Nusaybah Al Mazenyeh colleges for nursing and midwifery. The celebration, held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), included speeches delivered by Minister of Health Dr Aref Al Batayneh, Miss Malak Jaradeh and Miss Wafa' Al Kayed, who spoke on behalf of the graduates. At the end of the ceremony, Queen Noor distributed certificates on the graduates, who repeated the Hippocratic oath, while awards were given to the best students.



● The Director General of the InterContinental Hotel and Mrs Shawkat Ayoub held a reception last week to honor Jordanian heads of industrial, travel and tourism companies and agencies. The event was attended by a number of ambassadors and invites with interest in the tourism sector. The hotel organizes such an event every year as a contribution to strengthening relations between the hotel and companies and agencies which have business with the InterContinental.

● The Minister of Tourism, Mr Yamil Hikmat, opened last Saturday, at the Regency Palace Hotel, the Jordan Network System for Tourism Information. The system, presented as a gift by the French government, included terminals which connect to a central computer at the ministry by phone. The terminals will be distributed in big hotels in Amman, Petra, and Aqaba; in addition to tourist sites and airports to provide tourists with any vital and helpful information on Jordan, that they might need. French Minister of Tourism, Jean-Michel Baylet, arrived in Amman on the same day of the opening and attended the ceremony.

● The Philadelphia International Hotel held its annual celebration last week to honor its employees with certificates of appreciation and token prizes. The Manager of the hotel, Mr Faisal Abu Nawwar delivered a speech in which he encouraged the employees to continue doing their best so as to better represent Jordanian hospitality.



● The Jordan InterContinental Hotel hosted last week a conference on marketing, which was attended by marketing managers and assistant managers of the different branches of the company in the Middle East and Gulf area. Methods of marketing were discussed with Mr Michael Hegens the expert on international marketing. After the conference, the conferring parties visited some of the tourist sites in Jordan including Ashraf Hotel, at Maen, which the visitors admired.

This will be on Monday 10 February at 7 pm. The lecture has been planned to coordinate with the trip to Pella on Friday the 14th.

## Exhibitions

● At Jordan University for Women, there will be a photo exhibition curated by renowned artistic photographer Sigrid Neubert, featuring photos of the Goethe Forest. This will be on Wednesday 12 February at 10:30 am. The exhibition will run until 22 February.

● At Alla Art Gallery, the exhibition of paintings of the Iraqi artist Mahmoud Al Obeldi will still be open to public until 8 March, daily from 10 am to 1:30 pm and from 4-7 pm.

● At Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, the painting exhibition of artist Shakh Hasan Al Said will still be open to public until 29 February. Saturday through Wednesday from 10 am to 5 pm and 10 am to 8 pm on

## Symposiums

● At the British Council, there will be an exhibition on "Contemporary British Novelists" on Saturday 8 February at 6 pm. It will run until 28 February. The British Council is holding a questionnaire competition to accompany the exhibition.

● At the University of Jordan, in cooperation with the Goethe Institute Amman, there will be a symposium on "Development of Legislation and Technology Transfer and its Employment in Modern Laws." This will be on Wednesday and Thursday 12 and 13 February at 3-6 pm.

● At Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, a symposium on "The Lower House: Two years of speculation and practice" on Monday 10 February at 6 pm. Participants will include deputies Mr Mohammad Faris Al Tarawneh, Mr Mohammad Al Alawneh and Mr Fawzi Ta'imah.



British actress Lynda Baron

## A newcomer in town

● POPULAR BRITISH actress Lynda Baron will be appearing in Jordan next week to participate in the play "Lettice and Lovage" which is scheduled to be performed at the Philadelphia International Hotel on 18, 19 and 20 February.

Lynda appeared in most of the leading theatres around the UK combining her talent as a musical performer and a straight actress. Her most recent West End stage role was in Stephen Sondheim's "Pollicy". She also starred in "42nd Street" and "Little Me".

Her most famous role has been playing Nurse Gladys Emmanuel in the situation comedy "Open All Hours" where she starred opposite actor Ronnie Barker, whom she described as wonderful. She once said that her fat costume is still hanging

up in her wardrobe; and that she is surprised that people, even directors, still think that Gladys is fat and not mere padding.

Lynda, winner of the Best Actress Award and others, expressed how thrilled she was to be visiting and performing in the Middle East for the first time. The play "Lettice and Lovage" is directed by Michael Rolfe who will also play the role of Bartholomew, while Lynda will be playing the leading role of Lettice opposite Yvonne D'Alra and Lotte and Christine Furness as Miss Framer.

The publicity department at the Philadelphia Hotel has arranged for a press conference on 18 February, to enable media members to meet with the cast and crew members for interviews and photos.

## Bill Cosby in Groucho's role



"The Cosby Show" — coming to an end

● WHEN ONE has revolutionized TV, earned untold fortunes for countless people and become one of the world's most popular stars, it might be difficult to decide what to do next. But not with Bill Cosby. When he ends the Bill Cosby Show this year, the 54-year-old entertainer will move into off-network syndication in a new, daily version of Groucho Marx's quiz show and You Bet Your Life. Mr Cosby acted in 1 Spy, in which he became the first black actor to star in a weekly drama, and The Cosby Show, a monumentally successful comedy.

With Norman Brokaw (chairman and chief executive officer of the William Morris agency) as his adviser, and heavy weight producers like Marcy Carney and Tom Werner, whose hits include The Bill Cosby Show, it is no surprise that the Cosby-era You Bet Your Life already has signed up to at least 82 TV stations covering 67 per cent of America.

## Schwarzenegger defends gargantuan movie budget

By Bob Thomas

Terminator 2: Judgement Day' is the center of controversy for its filming as production costs soared towards a reported \$200 million. The producing company, Carolco, made no comment about the cost, and the rumor continued.

A media junket for the film, Arnold Schwarzenegger and director and co-writer James Cameron were defensive about the cost of the sequel. Both denied confident that the expense would prove worth it. They were right. Terminator 2 went on to amass \$200 million in gross receipts in the US and Canada alone.

The following is an interview with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Austrian-born former Mr Olympia, currently the No. 1 box office star world-wide. Following his film debut in 1975 with Pumping Iron, he has starred in such films as Conan the Destroyer, 'The Terminator', 'Predator', 'Red Heat', 'Twins', 'Kindergarten Cop' and 'Total Recall'.

Q: Linda Hamilton created the role of Sarah O'Connor in the 1984 'Terminator', she has also appeared in 'The Stone Boy', 'Black Moon Rising', 'King of the Hill' and 'Mr. Destiny', as well as starring in the TV series 'Beauty and the Beast'.

A: Director James Cameron first attracted international attention by directing and co-writing 'The Terminator'. His other films include 'Alien' and 'The Abyss'.

Q: Thomas: Does it distress you when people review the budget instead of the movie?

A: Schwarzenegger: I have not really seen anyone review the budget. I think people mention it. I think it has a lot to do with the fact that in the history of motion picture making, the budget always bragged about budgets. They say, "We have the most expensive movie"; "Ours has the most special effects" and all those kind of things. But that's just a hype thing and then the media picks up on it and they do their little hype thing on it.

Q: What is really interesting about this picture is what some of the people that have seen the movie have said. They say, "I cannot believe that I'm paying \$200 dollars for this movie." It is the same amount that you would pay for a crappy movie. It's a huge movie, they charge thirty dollars for it. It's a great movie, because I'm getting \$200 dollars worth of movie.

Q: That's true, that's really the message: That they're getting a great movie for their money because it's an enormous film and so much money went in there, and time and energy and creativity. They are really gonna have a good time with this; it's gonna be a great ride for them.

Q: Do pictures have to cost that much?

A: Yes, if you want to do a big movie, if you want to put a lot of special effects and a lot of talent and the amount of money that it takes to make a picture like this, an epic pic-

ture, a spectacle, which 'Terminator 2' is. That costs money. I mean, you get what you pay for, you know. You pay for what you get. And that's as simple as that.

Q: One can make it cheaper, but then you're not doing a fair job for the audience. We try to always do the best job. Everyone who has interviewed me on this movie has said, "I cannot believe that you've outdone 'Total Recall'." I cannot believe you have outdone every movie that you've ever done. It is because of all the money that went into this production. You see every dollar on the screen.

Q: Where does it end? Do you have to keep topping yourself every time?

A.S.: Not every time. For instance, remember we did 'Total Recall' which cost around 55 million dollars and then after that we did 'Kindergarten Cop' that cost 20 million dollars. Going up to Astoria in Oregon, or shooting the movie here in a sound stage in Los Angeles didn't cost much.

Q: But when you start blocking off a six mile freeway in Long Beach for two weeks, light all the oil refineries and have a helicopter flying on the bridges and those really dangerous stunts, or when you blow up office buildings that are real office buildings, then it costs more money, much more.

Q: But the people love it, they enjoy it, so the important thing is that for each dollar you put into the film, you make four dollars back. That's basically what is important.

Q: That doesn't always happen, as in 'Hudson Hawk'.

A.S.: In no business does it always happen that the money you put in will come back. But that is what our intention is, and that is what we have successfully done for the last six years. Every movie we have done we have come back with four times the amount of money that we put in. And I'm sure that will be the case here.

Q: You're getting a lot of money for your movie, if you want to put a lot of special effects and a lot of talent and the amount of money that it takes to make a picture like this, an epic pic-



Arnold Schwarzenegger

also with 'Terminator 2', especially when you look at the reaction that we get, the test screenings we had on all this stuff, and the reaction from the press. So, I'm pretty confident — and so is the studio that has put up the money — that they will make the money back.

Q: The only ones that complain sometimes about money and budgets are the press. It's really funny because when you read this stuff or when you hear it on television it sounds like they have put up the money for the movie. They have nothing to do with it. The studio's not complaining, the actors are not complaining, the director's not complaining. The only ones complaining are the press themselves.

Q: You don't mind selling the picture?

A.S.: I love selling the picture. If it is a good picture. This is a great picture, so I'm excited about selling it and talking about it and telling everyone about it. Not just to the press... I go to the gym and I'm on my life-cycle and I say, "You got to see 'Terminator 2'. I saw it yesterday, it was outrageous, it was a spectacle, it was huge." I do that wherever I go, because I'm so enthusiastic about it basically.

Q: What are you going to do next?

A.S.: I don't know. Next is the delivery of our second child. So I've put some time aside for that. I'm looking forward to that and I'm going to be here to be a part of it all.

## The grand world disorder

Continued from page 9

makes our task less onerous than it might have been. A number of regional conflicts, including the one in Cambodia, have been resolved. Apartheid is on the retreat. There has been a massive reduction in the strategic nuclear arsenals of both sides and short-range nuclear weapons are being given up and destroyed. The logic of this situation is not the perpetuation of the inequities and ineffectual NPT (after all, Iraq is supposed to have made nuclear weapons despite having signed it), but a phased and systematic progress towards a world without nuclear weapons. A precise plan for this purposes has been on the anvil of the UN ever since Rajiv Gandhi presented it to the world body in 1988.

Fears that India's arm might be twisted by those who want everyone to sign the NPT on the dotted line are, in my opinion, grossly exaggerated. This country has stood its ground even when its plight was worse than today. It has no reason to give in now. However, rather than refuse to discuss any problem, we ought to be ready to offer alternatives, to widen the nuclear debate and establish the superiority of our ideas.

The same holds true of other issues on which we might disagree with the US or Europe or Japan or whoever.

Another significant advantage we have ought to be made full use of. In all the talk about the new world order, pride of place is being given to democracy, pluralism, human rights and the quality of governance. On all these scores India's record is better than almost all countries of the Third World and of many developed countries. There are to be sure, complaints about alleged violations of human rights in the course of fighting terrorism and secession in Punjab and Kashmir. But here again Indian record can be shown to be vastly better than that of others.

India also shares several other interests common with those who are in the forefront of building the new world order. Opposition to terrorism and narco-terrorism is one. Resistance to Islamic fundamentalism is another.

The greatest challenge before the Indian state today is the massive, relentless and unremitting military pressure — in support of merchants of terrors and secession — applied by Pakistan in Kashmir. It is gratifying that even those Big Powers which in the past used habitually to support Pakistan have begun to denounce Pakistani behavior. They have also thrown their weight behind the idea that Kashmir must not be internationalized but settled through bilateral talks between India and Pakistan.

This is the base on which we should build. Nothing ought to be done to erode it.

Rather than go on in this vein, let me sum up. India is on a fairly strong wicket as far as the evolution of the new world order is concerned. Pressures and challenges there will be. But I cannot visualize any challenge which cannot be met with skill and dignity. It is absurd to believe that the choice before us is to either submit to dictates of meekly or to defy and decree others thoughtlessly. Give and take is the lifeblood of international diplomacy. Where necessary, agreements can be arrived at and even compromises made without compromising national self-respect or surrendering supreme Indian interests. In other situations, we can surely dig our toes in with poise but without making mucous noise.

Inder Malhotra is an Indian political writer.

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BUTIC

CRANF

ENGLIS

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Now arrange the dotted letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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